

drug prosecutions and arrests have plummeted.

In comparison, the Republican Congress has provided effective leadership in the war on drugs by providing resources for law enforcement and increased funding for DEA anti-drug initiatives such as combating Caribbean and Southwest border drug trafficking. In addition, we have provided ample funding for the Safe and Drug Free Schools program to establish comprehensive, integrated approaches to drug and violence prevention at our nation's schools.

Eliminating America's drug problem, especially the curse of drug use among our nation's youth, should be one of the federal government's top priorities. I applaud the House's passage yesterday of legislation prohibiting federal funding for needle exchange programs and I hope the Congress will continue to work to eradicate the scourge of drug abuse that continues to eat away at our homes, schools and neighborhoods.

#### A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RON LEHMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mr. Ron Lehman.

Today, Thursday, April 30, 1998, Mr. Lehman will retire from his position as bailiff for the Sandusky County Court of Common Pleas in Fremont, OH. Ron, a highly regarded and distinguished law enforcement officer, will be retiring after 30 years of exemplary community service to the citizens of Sandusky County.

Thirty years ago, Ron began his career in law enforcement as a Police Officer for the City of Fremont. He later worked as a Deputy with the Sandusky County Sheriff's Department. In 1976, Ron began working as the bailiff for the Honorable Harry Sargeant at the Municipal Court. Three years later, in 1979, Ron continued his service with Judge Sargeant becoming the bailiff for the Court of Common Pleas, where he has served for the past 22 years.

Ron's dedication to law enforcement and to Judge Sargeant and the Court is surpassed only by his unwavering commitment to his family and his friends. To all those who know him, Ron is a wonderful person and a caring and loving husband.

They say that America works because of the unselfish acts of her citizens. No where is that more evident than with the actions and contributions that Ron Lehman has given to his family, his profession, and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Ron Lehman on the occasion of his retirement, and in wishing him the very best in the future.

#### SENSE OF CONGRESS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

#### HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege for me today to honor the nation of Israel on its 50th birthday. On May 14, 1948—the fifth day of Iyar, 5708 under the Jewish calendar—after years without a national homeland, the Jewish people established a new country and the historic nation of Israel was reborn. As Israelis celebrate their country's 50th anniversary, the international community is celebrating with them 50 years of independence.

In the 5th Congressional District of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, the Hillel Foundation-Milwaukee, the Jewish Community Center, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Jewish Studies, the Coalition for Jewish Learning, and other organizations have scheduled a series of events to commemorate this occasion. On May 15th, the Consul General of Israel to the Midwest, Tzipora Rimon, will come to Milwaukee to participate in a forum called "Israel at 50! Taking Her Place in the Global Economy." I look forward to participating in that important conference.

As someone with a great interest in Israel, Middle Eastern affairs and world peace, I believe that the political transformations in this region during the past few years have been dramatic. I was deeply saddened when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was felled by an assassin's bullet on November 4, 1995. I met with Prime Minister Shimon Peres in February, 1996, during a visit to Israel with the group Milwaukee-Jerusalem 3000. And I listened as his successor Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a joint session of Congress, in July 1996. We have come a long way, despite attempts by extreme factions to harm Israel and the cause of peace in the region.

I would like to quote an excerpt from Israel's "declaration of independence," published 50 years ago as the British mandate over the area drew to an end: "We extend our hand in peace and neighbourliness to all the neighbouring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the common good of all."

It is in that spirit, and with that faith, that I will continue to work with the administration to ensure the United States remains firm in its commitment to the security of Israel and to those principles necessary to guarantee the success of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher

Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. A college education has become a virtual necessity for success, but the rising cost of tuition has put that diploma further and further out of reach for many students.

I am particularly glad that this bill makes more funds available for financial aid programs, and especially Pell Grants, which help open the doors of college to America's neediest students. Increasing the maximum Pell Grant from \$3,000 to \$4,500 may not sound like a lot, but to many students it makes all the difference in the world.

Now that we have authorized more funds for Pell Grants, I encourage my colleagues to work together to support a budget that makes that money available to students who are depending on this financial aid to pay for their college education. It does no good to authorize increases if we do not make the money available to make those increases real.

I am also pleased that we have worked out a compromise that will lower the interest rates on student loans. But I am concerned about the billion dollar pay off we are giving to lending institutions. This money will actually make student loans more profitable for banks than the typical loan portfolio.

We should put that funding toward financial aid programs and helping students—not bankers. But overall, I believe this bill does the right thing in making college accessible to more Americans, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Franklin Township Lions Club which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Having served as a Lion myself since 1982 in this very club, I am well aware of the important role and contribution that the Lions Club makes in so many communities around our country especially in the Township of Franklin, New Jersey. As the former Mayor of the Township, I can personally attest to the numerous activities and the community involvement of the Lions.

In particular, the Franklin Lions helped to found the Township's Little League, funded the scoreboard at the High School, hosted a Halloween parade, and raised money for the High School seniors to go on to college through scholarships. They have also provided eye glasses, eye exams, hearing tests and a host of other health related screenings to all the members of the community. And it was the Lions who raised the funds for a sensory garden for the handicapped and blind. Their fund raising efforts have also served members of the community in need. In one such instance, the Lions worked tirelessly to help raise the necessary funds to help a young man in the community who was in need of a liver transplant.